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MONDAY
AUGUST 23, 1954

I went to see John Hughes this morning to tell him what had happened at Brussels.

Afterwards, I called on Chris Steel at his request. He feels confident the Prime Minister, in his meeting with Mendès today, will not upset the EDC apple cart.

E. and I lunched with Margaret Biddle, Monsieur Pinay being the other guest. Pinay is reserving his decision as to what to do until Mendès has announced his Government's policy for action in the forthcoming debate. As a last resort, he thinks the pro-EDC people should, if Mendès does not put the question to a vote, demand a vote on the EDC Treaty from the floor of the Assembly.

Bert Jolis talked to me this afternoon about the International Rescue Committee's affairs and the possible extension of its activities to Indo-China.

My cousin, young Betsey Fisher, came to see me. She is attractive.

I had a telegram saying Audrey returned safely.

I went over to meet Doug Dillon and his staff, also John Hughes, and gave them my personal impressions of the Brussels meeting. We were in agreement as to the value of comparative silence in Washington, at least for the time being, on its results. Doug may telephone Foster to this effect, but I am afraid the heavy artillery will be unlimbered in spite of such warnings.

Claude and Hervé Alphand came to dinner with us at Versailles. Alphand thinks that, under present circumstances, if the Government puts the EDC Treaty to the Assembly on a take-it-or-leave-it basis, it would not receive more than 200 favorable votes. Claude disagrees, and believes the strong emotional appeal it makes to the majority of the people in the country would bring about a much larger vote.

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We left at 9:30 and went to town, where I met de Staercke and Tommy. De Staercke had come down from Brussels tonight with a message to me from Spaak. We canvassed a variety of courses which might now be followed, but arrived at no conclusion, hoping the night would bring additional counsel.

Assuming Sir Winston gave Mendès no encouragement today, a strong influence may be exercised in the French Assembly by the appreciation of the current almost complete isolation of France from its partners. We also considered the possible merit of Sir Winston inviting Adenauer and Dulles to meet him at once to counteract the impression which Mendès' followers are anxious to create; namely, no matter what France does, it will be able to maintain its tripartite position with the U.S. and U.K. in dealing with the problem of Germany, to the almost complete exclusion of the other free nations of Europe.

It was cold and raining today.

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